Government has been requested by Central Water Commission to obtain concurrence of Government of Madhya Pradesh for inundation of areas in that State.

Purchase of Foreign Exchange for Funding the Sardar Sarovar Project

4020. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governments propose to purchase foreign exchange worth hundreds of crores of rupees in the open market for funding the electrical equipment component of the Sardar Sarovar Project; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) A request to release free foreign exchange to the tune of about Rs. 500 crores during 1993-94 for funding the electrical equipment component of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been made to Department of Economic Affairs.

(b) The OECF (Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund) Loan, Japan for the Tirbo Generator sets of Sardar Sarovar Project has been suspended by them since November, 1990. This has resulted in unilateral suspension of manufacture by the Japanese firm since August, 1992. They have also raised claims for deferment of delivery schedule by levying storage escalation and interest charges for the equipment—already manufactured and the materials purchased for the equipment yet to be manufactured. In order to get the equipments released for the project and till such time the OECF (Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund) loan assistance is finally negotiated, it has been suggested in the meeting of the Sardar Sarovar the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance to release the requisite foreign exchange.

US Aid to Minor Irrigation Projects

4021. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Minor Irrigation Schemes are being assisted under United States aid in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the number of Minor Irrigation Schemes which have so far been completed or are in progress;

(d) how much United States aid amounts have so far been received and spent on Minor Irrigation Schemes in the State; and

(e) by when all the on-going Minor Irrigation Schemes are likely to be completed in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) to (b) Only Madhya Pradesh Minor Irrigation Project was financially assisted by the United States Agency for International Development in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Project Assistance Completion Date for this project was 30.6.1992. The United States Agency for International Development had committed an assistance of United States. Dollar 46 million to this project, out of which United State Dollar 1.084 million was deobligated by them. Out of the balance assistance of United State Dollar 44.916 million, Dollar 41.088 million was utilised.

Schemes for Providing wells to SC/ST Farmers in Madhya Pradesh

4022. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any scheme for providing wells on the fields of SC/ST farmers for irrigation in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many SC/ST farmers are likely